

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. A regular airline service operates about five times a week in each direction between Vladivostok and Moscow. Stops of approximately two hours' duration are made in order to refuel the aircraft at the following places: Khabarovsk, Chita, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Sverdlovsk. The trip takes two to two and a half days; there are no overnight stops.
2. The service is maintained by twin-engine civilian aircraft. The planes are comfortable and have reclining seats to enable passengers to sleep. A one-way trip costs approximately 1,600 rubles. Similar aircraft take passengers on from Moscow to Leningrad.
3. Two trains leave Moscow and Vladivostok daily and proceed via the Trans-Siberian railroad to Vladivostok and Moscow, respectively. One train from each city is an express. This train makes the journey in nine days. The other is a slower train which stops at smaller stations en route.
4. For the first 180 miles eastwards from Moscow, all the trains are hauled by diesel electric engines; for the remainder of the way, steam locomotives are used.¹
5. The Trans-Siberian expresses are classed as crack trains on the Soviet railroad system. Everything is done to maintain the schedules and the service and comfort on the trains themselves.
6. A first-class one-way ticket costs approximately 1,200 rubles, a third-class one-way ticket about 600 rubles.

Comment: It is not clear whether the track on this section is electrified, or whether the engines are merely electrically propelled.

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